

CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing a plant cultivation, particularly a lawn, comprising, also in a different time sequence, the following operating steps:

- preparing a seeding bed and introducing seeds therein;
- dividing the seeding bed into sods;
- cohesion treatment, whereby the resulting sod is not brittle, makes it possible to maintain a geometric shape and allows proper handling until the laying step is completed;
- laying the sod and
- moistening the sod before or after laying and regular watering afterwards, characterized in that said seeding bed is prepared using dry materials and before laying the sod a drying step is performed on the sod.

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that after drying the sod is packaged in a suitable package for its preservation, storage and transport, preferably under vacuum.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said preparation of a seeding bed comprises the dosage of the components and the mixing thereof.

4. The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said preparation of a seeding bed is obtained by depositing successive layers of various components.

5. The method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that said division into sods occurs by molding the mix in a template, die or by extrusion in the chosen sod shape.

6. The method according to any claim 1 to 4, characterized in that said division into sods occurs by die-cutting.

7. The method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that said seed insertion occurs by implantation with a seeding machine.

8. The method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that said introduction of seeds occurs by depositing a layer of seeds.

9. The method according to any preceding claim, characterized in that said nondestructive drying reduces the percentage of humidity in the seeding bed to the point at which seed germination is no longer possible and tends to preserve the possibility of rapid future revival of microorganisms activity without degrading the natural and chemical organic substances present in the seeding bed.

10. The method according to any preceding claim 1 to 8, characterized in that said drying is performed by exposure in a ventilated greenhouse.

11. The method according to any preceding claim 1 to 8, characterized in that said drying is provided by means of low-temperature heat sources and by air change.

12. The method according to claim 3, characterized in that said cohesion treatment is performed by adding a bonding agent during mixing.

13. The method according to any claim 1 to 11, characterized in that said cohesion treatment is performed by laying a layer of adhesive on the entire outer surface of said sod.

14. A sod for cultivating plants, obtained with the method according to any preceding claim, comprising a seeded seeding bed including a fertilizer and wrapped or at least held together by a suitable organic bonding agent so as to maintain its shape.

15. The sod according to claim 14, characterized in that said bonding agent is biodegradable.

16. The sod according to claim 14, characterized in that said bonding agent comprises at least one colloidal substance.

17. The sod according to claim 16, characterized in that said bonding agent comprises glue of vegetable or animal origin.

18. The sod according to any claim 14 to 17, characterized in that said seeding bed comprises soil which includes mineral substances and at least one organic substance.

19. The sod according to claim 18, characterized in that said organic substance comprises one or more fertilizers.

20. The sod according to claim 18 or 19, characterized in that it comprises one or more selective herbicides which hinder the germination and growth of plants which are

PCT/EP00/01476

14

different from, and antagonists of, those whose growth is sought.

21. The sod according to any one of the preceding claims 14 to 20, characterized in that it has a geometric shape which makes it possible to cover continuously the surface to be revegetated.

~~Add A1~~

[illegible]

ADD
BI

ADD
B2